

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01339 01 OF 02 241614Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00  
/098 W

-----102416 241707Z /42

R 241408Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5417  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 6431  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 1339

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, CZ  
SUBJECT: POLICE BRUTALITY AROUSES CHARTER 77

1. SUMMARY: THREE INSTANCES OF POLICE BRUTALITY DIRECTED AT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01339 01 OF 02 241614Z

CHARTER 77 SIGNERS IN THE PAST WEEK HAVE THROWN THE GROUP,  
PARTICULARLY MORE ACTIVE MEMBERS, INTO A STATE OF APPREHENSION ON  
EVE OF BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO PRAGUE. CONSENSUS AMONG ORGANIZERS  
IS THAT POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED TO CRACK DOWN HARD ON  
DISSIDENTS, FOLLOWING SOVIET EXAMPLE SET BY TRIAL OF YURI ORLOV,  
IN HOPES EITHER OF PUSHING CHARTER 77 GROUP OVER THE THIN LINE  
BETWEEN LEGALITY AND ILLEGALITY, OR OF FORESTALLING ACTIVITY

DURING BREZHNEV VISIT. WE ALSO SEE THIS DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF OVERALL TIGHTENING OF INTERNAL CONTROLS AS THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 SOVIET INTERVENTION APPROACHES. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES, MUSIC CRITIC IVAN MEDEK WAS SET UPON BY THREE POLICE THUGS MAY 16 AFTER BEING INTERROGATED AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN BARTOLOMEJSKA STREET. EARLIER IN THE DAY MEDEK HAD VISITED CHARTER 77 SPOKESMAN LADISLAV HEJDANEK. AFTER INTERROGATING HIM, POLICE OFFERED MEDEK A RIDE HOME, WHICH HE DECLINED. A FEW FEET FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS HE WAS PUSHED INTO A CAR AND DRIVEN ABOUT FORTY-FIVE MINUTES OUT OF PRAGUE WHERE HE WAS PUMMELED IN THE STOMACH INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND LEFT IN A FIELD NEAR NOVE STRASECI, WEST OF PRAGUE. MEDEK REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS THE NEXT MORNING AND FOUND HIS WAY BACK TO PRAGUE WHERE HE INFORMED FRIENDS OF THE INCIDENT.

3. ON MAY 19 TWO NEW SIGNERS OF CHARTER 77 FROM OUTSIDE PRAGUE WERE BEATEN BY POLICE, DURING INTERROGATION AT BARTOLOMEJSKA STREET. WE HAVE THIS ON AUTHORITY OF CHARTER 77 SPOKESWOMAN KUBISOVA, WHO KNOWS THE TWO PERSONALLY, BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM FOR US.

4. ON MAY 23, BOHUMIL DOLEZAL, A LITERARY CRITIC, VISITED CHARTER SPOKESMAN HEJDANEK, WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT THE EARLIER INCIDENT INVOLVING MEDEK. DOLEZAL THEN SUFFERED ALMOST PRECISELY THE SAME TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF POLICE THUGS WHO BEAT HIM UP  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01339 01 OF 02 241614Z

AND LEFT HIM TOWARDS NIGHTFALL IN A FORES NEAR PRIBRAM.

5. EMBOFF WHO DROPPED BY KUBISOVA'S APARTMENT NIGHT OF MAY 23 FOUND GROUP OF SEVEN CHARTER SIGNERS IN SOMETHING LIKE A STATE OF SEIGE(HOUSE WAS IN FACT UNDER SURVEILLANCE). DISCUSSION CENTERED ON SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS CAN EXPECT TO BE BEATEN UP, WAYS TO GO ABOUT IN GROUPS FOR PROTECTION,

BEST TYPES OF CLOTHING TO WEAR TO MINIMIZE EFFECTS OF BEATINGS AND BEING DUMPED AT NIGHT IN ISOLATED PLACES.

6. GROUP CENTERED AROUND KUBISOVA, NOW CALLING ITSELF A COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNJUSTLY PERSECUTED, HAS GIVEN DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF THE THREE INCIDENTS TO NEWSMEN, INCLUDING AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE, WHOM THEY EXPECT TO RUN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01339 02 OF 02 241610Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 SY-05 USSS-00 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00  
/098 W

-----102374 241707Z /42

R 241408Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5418  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PRAGUE 1339

STORY. THEY HAVE ALSO SENT PROTESTS TO PRESIDENT HUSAK,  
PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL AND OTHER CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES.  
IN ADDITION TO LOCAL COMPLAINTS, THE GROUP HAS ISSUED A STATE-  
MENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH ORLOV.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01339 02 OF 02 241610Z

7. KUBISOVA SAYS A LIST OF FIFTY-SIX NEW CHARTER 77 SIGNERS HAS  
JUST BEEN COMPILED. WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE A COPY.

8. CHARTER 77 SIGNERS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN SEE THEIR ONLY  
DEFENSE IN WESTERN PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS NEW AND SOMEWHAT

OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT. THEY POINT OUT THAT WHEREAS BOTH HUSAK AND STROUGAL HAVE ADMITTED PUBLICLY TO PRESS IN NEIGHBORING FRG AND AUSTRIA THAT GOC IS FIGHTING AGAINST CHARTER 77 "POLITICALLY," THE PRESENT RESORTING TO PHYSICAL BRUTALITY ESCALATES THE BATTLE. SOME CHARTER 77 SIGNERS THOUGHT MAY 16 INCIDENT INVOLVING MEDEK WAS AN ISOLATED ONE PERPETRATED BY OVERZEALOUS POLICEMEN. NOW THEY SEEM CONVINCED, AFTER TWO STRIKINGLY SIMILAR ENCORES, THAT AN ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED TO TERRORIZE INDIVIDUALS. THEY PRESUME IT WAS A SHOW OF STRENGTH AND A WARNING CONNECTED WITH THE BREZHNEV VISIT, IN WHICH CASE THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A PREEMPTIVE ROUND-UP OF POTENTIAL TROUBLE-MAKERS ON THE EVE OF THE VISIT, OR ELSE THAT IT IS THE BEGINNING OF AN EFFORT TO FORCE THE MOST ACTIVE CHARTER ORGANIZERS OVER THE LINE INTO ILLEGAL ACTIVITY AND PROSECUTE THEM ON THAT BASIS.

9. COMMENT: IF POLICE HAVE BEEN GIVEN LICENSE TO BEAT UP CHARTER ADHERENTS, IT SEEMS TO US MORE LIKELY TO BE IN RESPONSE TO SIGNAL GIVEN BY ORLOV AND OTHER TRIALS IN USSR THAT NO TOLERANCE SHOULD BE SHOWN TO OVERT DISSIDENCE, THAN TO BREZHNEV VISIT. UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE WILL BE A PREEMPTIVE ROUNDUP OF POTENTIAL TROUBLEMAKERS JUST BEFORE BREZHNEV ARRIVES, BUT INTIMIDATION EFFORTS WOULD MORE LOGICALLY BE AIMED AT SUCH KNOWN ACTIVISTS AS PAVEL KOHOUT AND THE TROTSKYITE GROUP AROUND PETER UHL THAN AGAINST THE RELATIVELY PASSIVE DOLEZAL AND MEDEK.

10. IF KUBISOVA AND HER CIRCLE HAVE IN FACT FORMED A FORMAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 01339 02 OF 02 241610Z

COMMITTEE, THEY MAY WELL BE JUDGED TO HAVE TAKEN AN ILLEGAL STEP, WHICH EARLIER CHARTER LEADERS HAD BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID, ALWAYS DENYING THAT CHARTER 77 HAD A FORMAL ORGANIZATION OR CONSTITUTED A "MOVEMENT."

11. WE ALSO SEE THESE INCIDENTS AS PART OF A BROADER VIGILANCE CAMPAIGN WHICH INCLUDES INCREASED SURVEILLANCE/HARASSMENT OF WESTERN DIPLOMATS AND JOURNALISTS, DIMINISHED TOLERANCE TOWARD ILLEGAL CURRENCY DEALINGS AND AN APPARENT EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PASSIVE AS WELL AS OVERT DISSIDENTS TO CHOOSE EXILE. ALL THIS WE ASSUME IS TO ENSURE THINGS WILL BE TIGHTLY BUTTONED DOWN AS THE AUGUST ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES.

12. WE HAVE SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE IN SEPTTEL.  
BYRNE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HARASSMENT, POLICE FORCES, ALLEGATIONS, INTELLECTUALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRAGUE01339  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780219-0272  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780524/aaaaatpy.tel  
**Line Count:** 219  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5d52c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2586365  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLICE BRUTALITY AROUSES CHARTER 77  
**TAGS:** SHUM, CZ, CSCE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5d52c397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014